

SUPPORTING STATEMENT JUSTIFICATION FOR ELECTRONIC ANIMAL DISEASE REPORTING SYSTEM

1. Circumstances Making Collection Of Information Necessary:

This is a request for a new information collection, which addresses meat and poultry slaughter for the electronic Animal Disease Reporting System.

The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) has been delegated the authority to exercise the functions of the Secretary as provided in the Federal Meat Inspection Act (FMIA) (21 U.S.C. 601 et seq.) and the Poultry Products Inspection Act (PPIA) (21 U.S.C. 451 et seq.). These statutes mandate that FSIS protect the public by ensuring that meat and poultry products are safe, wholesome, unadulterated, and properly labeled and packaged. FSIS also inspects exotic animals and rabbits under the authority of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946, as amended (7 U.S.C. 1621 et seq.).

In accordance with 9 CFR 320, 381.175, 381.180, 303.1(b)(3), 352.15, and 354.91, establishments that slaughter meat, poultry, exotic animals, and rabbits are required to maintain certain records regarding their business operations and to report this information to the Agency as required.

For the Agency's electronic Animal Disease Reporting System (eADRS), establishments report (by shift) slaughter totals in number of heads and weight by animal category. EADRS is an information system that tracks and reports data on the number of animals slaughtered, animal diseases, and animal welfare information in the United States.

2. How, By Whom and Purpose Information Is To Be Used:

The following is a discussion of the information collection activities.

For eADRS, establishments report orally to FSIS inspection personnel in the plant slaughter totals (by shift) in number of heads and weight by animal category.

FSIS uses this information to plan inspection activities, to develop sampling plans for testing, to target establishments for testing, for Agency budget planning, and in its reports to Congress. FSIS also

provides this data to other USDA agencies—the National Agricultural Statistics Service, the Animal Plant and Health Inspection Service, the Agriculture Marketing Service, and the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration, for their publications and other functions.

There are 23,180 total burden hours for the information collection request relating to the eADRS.

3. Use Of Improved Information Technology:

The information is reported orally to in-plant FSIS inspection personnel.

4. Efforts To Identify Duplication:

No other USDA agency or any other Government agency requires information relating to the slaughter of meat, poultry, exotic animals, and rabbit. There is no other available information that can be used or modified.

5. Methods To Minimize Burden On Small Business Entities:

Data required of small entities are the same as for large ones. The information collections must apply to all requestors.

6. Consequences If Information Were Collected Less Frequently:

To conduct the information collections less frequently will reduce the effectiveness of the meat and poultry inspection program.

7. Circumstances That Would Cause The Information Collection To Be Conducted In A Manner:

- requiring respondents to report information to the agency more often than quarterly;
- requiring respondents to prepare a written response to a collection of information in fewer than 30 days after receipt of it;
- requiring respondents to submit more than an original and two copies of any document;
- requiring respondents to retain records, other than health, medical, government contract, grant-in-aid,

- or tax records for more than three years;
- in connection with a statistical survey, that is not designed to produce valid and reliable results that can be generalized to the universe of study;
- requiring the use of a statistical data classification that has not been reviewed and approved by OMB;
- that includes a pledge of confidentiality that is not supported by authority established in statute or regulation, that is not supported by disclosure and data security policies that are consistent with the pledge, or which unnecessarily impedes sharing of data with other agencies for compatible confidential use; or
- requiring respondents to submit proprietary trade secret, or other confidential information unless the agency can demonstrate that it has instituted procedures to protect the information's confidentiality to the extent permitted by law.

Firms of necessity will submit data for eADRS more than once per quarter; hence, the information collection and recordkeeping activities in this submission are not consistent with the guidelines in 5 CFR 1320.6.

8. Consultation With Persons Outside The Agency:

In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act, FSIS published a 60-day notice (71 FR 38356) in the Federal Register on July 6, 2006 requesting comments regarding this information collection request. The Agency received no comments from the public. FSIS did contact three members of industry: Steve Lenz (360/629-3939), Stephen McCullough (479/784-1273), and Alfred Bausch (361/241-5000). One person said that the inspector does it for them; another person said that it takes five minutes or less to compile and submit the information; and the other person had no comment. The Agency decided that the estimate of 2 minutes for completing the form was still appropriate.

9. Payment or Gifts to Respondents:

Respondents will not receive any gifts or payments.

10. Confidentiality Provided To Respondents:

No assurances other than routine protection provided under the Freedom of Information Act have been provided to respondents.

11. Questions Of A Sensitive Nature:

The applicants are not asked to furnish any information of a sensitive nature.

12. Estimate of Burden

The total burden estimate for the reporting and recordkeeping requirements associated with this information collection is 23,180 hours.

The Agency estimates that 1,159 establishments will respond 600 times annually taking 2 minutes to supply the information needed for eADRS for a total of 23,180 hours.

ELECTRONIC ANIMAL DISEASE REPORTING SYSTEM

Type of Establish-Ment	No. of Respon-dents	No. of Responses per Respondent	Total Annual Responses	Time for Response in Mins.	Total Annual Time in Hours
Ests.	1,159	600	659,400	2	23,180

13. Capital and Start-up Cost and Subsequent Maintenance

There are no capital and start-up costs and subsequent maintenance burdens.

14. Annual Cost To Federal Government And Respondents:

The cost to the Federal Government for these information collection requirements is \$30,000 annually. The costs arise primarily from the time spent by FSIS staff reviewing the eADRS data. The Agency estimates a cost of \$30 per hour.

The cost to the respondents is estimated at \$695,400 annually. The Agency estimates that it will cost respondents \$30 an hour in fulfilling these paperwork and recordkeeping requirements. Respondents will spend an annual total of 23,180 hours and \$695,400.

15. Reasons For Changes In Burden:

This is a new information collection.

16. Tabulation, Analyses And Publication Plans:

There are no plans to publish the data for statistical use.

17. OMB Approval Number Display:

FSIS will display the OMB approval number on any instructions it publishes relating to recordkeeping activities.

18. Exceptions to the Certification:

There are no exceptions to the certification. This information collection accords with the certification in item 19 of the OMB 83-I.

